







## WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR INVADES ENGLAND

THE NORMAN INVASION OF ENGLAND IN 1066 WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY.

C Harold Godwinson, the last Anglo-Saxon king, was killed at the Battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066. The Normans, led by William the Conqueror, invaded England and won the battle. William then became the first Norman king of England. The Normans brought with them a new language, French, and a new culture. They also brought with them a new religion, Christianity. The Normans ruled England for over a century. They built many castles and churches. They also fought many wars. The Normans were a very powerful and important people in the history of England.

The Norman conquest of England in 1066 was a turning point in the history of the country. It marked the end of the Anglo-Saxon era and the beginning of the Norman era. The Normans brought with them a new language, French, and a new culture. They also brought with them a new religion, Christianity. The Normans ruled England for over a century. They built many castles and churches. They also fought many wars. The Normans were a very powerful and important people in the history of England.





**WILLIAM OF NORMANDY INVADES ENGLAND**  
(Duke William Marshals His Troops as They Land Upon the English Sands)  
*By Alphonse de Neuville, the French artist (1836-1885)*

CANUTE'S sons proved unsatisfactory rulers, so the people of England, both Danes and Saxons, deposed them, and gave the throne to the next Saxon heir, Edward the Confessor. This Edward had been all his life an exile in the French land of Normandy, so knew little of the country he was invited to rule. He even assumed the French idea that kingship was inherited like private property, and forgetting that he was himself an elected king, he promised to will his kingdom to his friend and cousin William, the Duke of Normandy. Over twenty years of rule in England made Edward wiser; and when he died without children, he willed the kingdom not to the foreigner William but to the strongest of the English lords, Harold, Earl of Wessex. Thus arose that tremendously important historical event, the invasion of England by the Normans.

The English paid no attention to King Edward's bequests. They were accustomed to electing their own kings, and deposing them, too, if unsatisfactory; and they fully expected to uphold their choice with their swords. Now the chief men of the kingdom met and elected Harold. There they thought the matter ended. But Norman William demanded his rights, and gathered an army and invaded England. Legend says that as he sprang ashore he stumbled and fell on his hands and knees. Quick to turn the omen to a promise he rose and held out his hand crying, "See, I have grasped England's land."











THE LION

THE LION, A NOVEL, IN THREE VOLUMES, BY MRS. J. K. B. B.

LONDON: PUBLISHED BY J. K. B. B. 1814.

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## HASTINGS

(Duke William Leads the Final Charge of the Normans)

*From an ancient print, almost contemporary with the event*

THE sturdy Saxons had little fear of this Norman Duke who sought to dictate to them who should be their king. They had encountered before, and rather despised, these southern and more civilized fighting men of France. Harold and his court were much more anxious over another invasion. A brother of Harold had made common cause with the King of Norway; and these two famous fighters, with a mighty viking host behind them, attacked England from the north. Harold and his Saxons marched north and won a great but dear-bought victory over this viking army. Then, learning that Norman William had actually landed from France, they marched with all the speed they could across the whole length of England, and met these lesser invaders at Hastings.

The battle of Hastings was one of the turning-points of history. It made the English what they are to-day, a race of mingled Norman and Saxon blood. It was bitterly fought. The Normans charged with horse and lance but could make no break in the sturdy Saxon line. William won by a stratagem, or perhaps it was an accident. A cry arose that he was slain. His followers began to retreat, and the Saxons left their unbreakable line and rushed forward for plunder. William, opening his helmet, showed himself to his men and led them to another charge which the scattered Saxons were unable to resist.

















## THE LEGEND OF HAROLD'S BURIAL

(His Betrothed Helps the Monks to Find His Mangled Body)

*From a painting by the German artist, Ferdinand Leeke*

**K**ING HAROLD perished, along with the greater part of his soldiers, upon that bloody field of Hastings. Duke William, with Norman shrewdness, set himself to gain every possible advantage from his victory. He proclaimed everywhere that he came as England's rightful king and would cherish and protect all loyal Englishmen. Those who had opposed him were traitors; death had been their fitting punishment; but no others need fear. He made friends, for a time at least, with the chief Englishmen who had not joined Harold, and thus he won the English throne without another battle. He was crowned in London and dealt with England in rude kindness, severely but not unjustly according to his light.

Tradition says that his bitterness to King Harold outlasted even his rival's death. He refused to let any search for Harold's body be made among the slain at Hastings. At length he told two monks that they might seek the corpse if they would bury it there upon the sea sands of Hastings without honor or ceremony. The monks could not find the body until they called to their aid the fair Saxon maid to whom Harold had been betrothed, "Edith of the Swan's neck." Edith joined the searchers, and knew her lover despite all the wounds with which he was disfigured; and thus in silence and in solitude was buried the last Saxon king of England.











THE HISTORY OF THE KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
FROM THE DEATH OF CHARLES THE SECOND TO THE  
DEATH OF WILLIAM THE THIRD

I have been thinking much lately of the many changes that have taken place in the world since the death of Charles the Second. It seems almost incredible that so much has happened in so short a time. The reign of William the Third was a period of great importance in the history of England. It was a time when the country was united under a single monarch, and when the power of the crown was greatly increased. The king was a man of great ability and courage, and he was able to bring about many important reforms. His reign was marked by the establishment of the Bill of Rights, which secured the rights of the people against the arbitrary power of the monarch. It was also a time when the country was at peace, and when the people were able to enjoy the fruits of the king's wisdom and justice. The reign of William the Third was a period of great glory for England, and it is a time that we should all remember with pride and admiration.





## FATHER AND SON MEET IN BATTLE

(King William's Son Robert Rebels and Unhorses His Father in Battle)

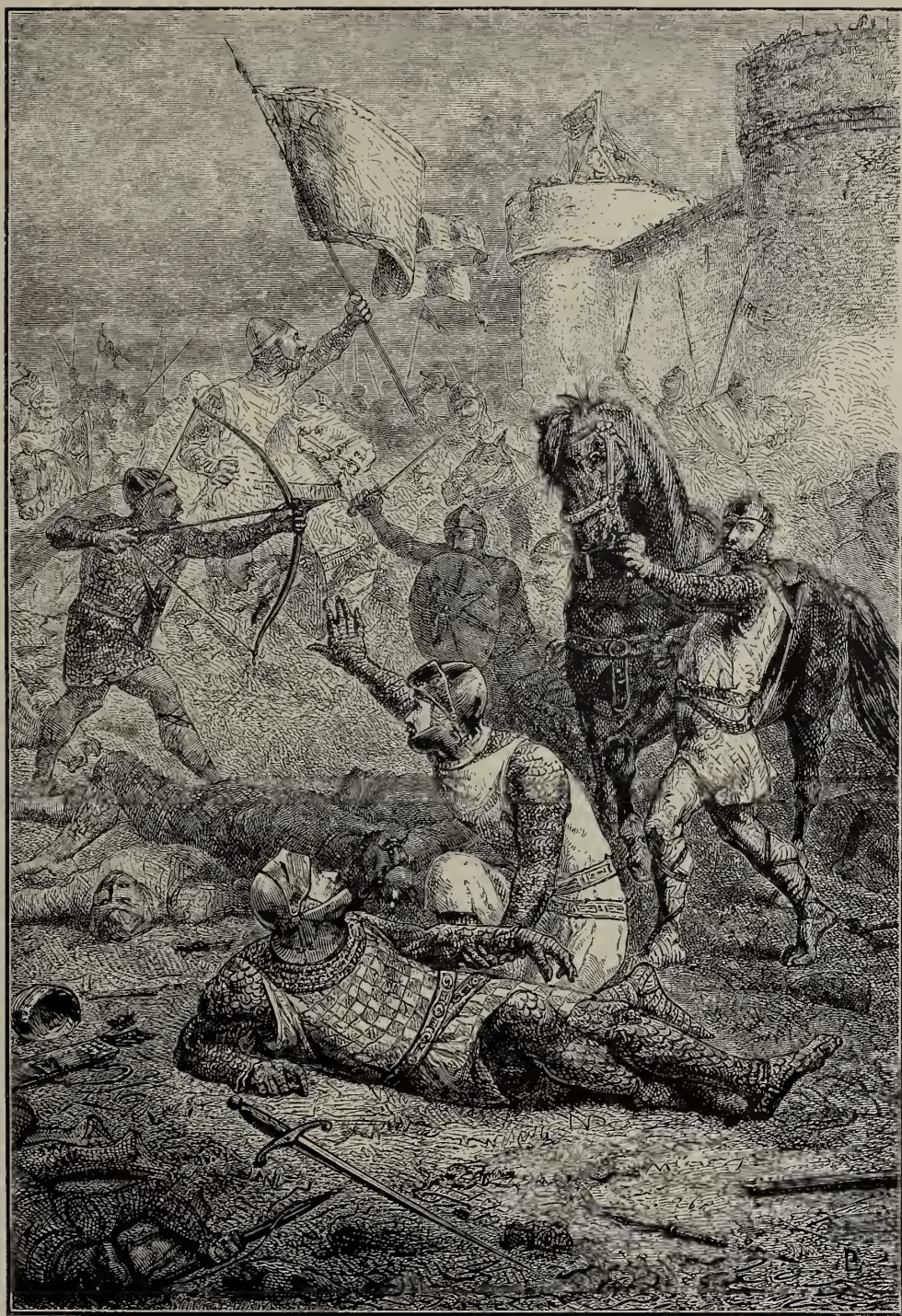
*From the series by the French artist, Paul Leyendecker*

IT is doubtful if William's great conquest brought him much pleasure. His Norman lords by no means relished the severity with which he compelled them to deal justly with the English. The English themselves were always bursting into little reckless rebellions. The Danes ravaged the land as before. But William was really a great man. He repressed all the tumults, and brought peace and order out of chaos. He completely reorganized England.

He could not, however, keep the peace within his own family. The King of France, fearing that this Norman duke of his was becoming entirely too powerful, stirred up rebellion against him in Normandy. William's eldest son Robert tried to force his father to let him rule the French domains of the family. The two even met in open warfare. William besieged Robert in a little Norman town; and Robert, leading a charge of the defenders, met his father and unhorsed him. They had not known each other behind their helmets, but that of William broke open and Robert recognized him. Instead of slaying his father, he knelt and asked for pardon. William granted it and even let Robert rule Normandy as his viceroy. Soon, however, they were quarreling again, and William was actually leading an expedition against his son when the stern father was injured by a fall from his horse and died soon after.













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## A CONQUEROR'S DEATHBED

(William the Conqueror Deserted on His Deathbed by His Sons and Servants)

*Drawn by the English artist, W. Thomas*

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR had lived a life of warfare; he died a death of misery. The story has often been repeated as showing the worthlessness of glory. William's oldest son Robert was, as we have seen, in open rebellion against him. Hence the dying conqueror decreed that his second son, another William, should succeed him on the throne of England. Young William got this command in writing, and then without even waiting for his father to be really dead set off for England in wild haste, so as to get crowned before brother Robert could interfere. There was also a third son, Henry. He entreated his father for some recognition, got a pledge of extensive estates, and rode off to seize those before brother William could snatch them.

So the dying king was left by his children to the care of servants, who helped themselves to his jewels, his rich robes, and even his coronation scepter. Each thief fled in turn with his plunder, until the lower class thieves who alone were left with the dead body even stripped it of the clothes the king had worn. Then they tumbled the body onto the floor to get possession of the fine sheets and costly bedding. So ended the glory of the great conqueror.















## AN HISTORIC MYSTERY

(The Death of King William II. by an Unknown Hand)

*From a drawing by the French artist, C. Laplante*

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR was thus succeeded in England by his second son, commonly called William Rufus, which means William the Red, who warred constantly with his two brothers for possession of lands in England or in Normandy. The barons who supported the quarreling brothers were almost as powerful as they, so William Rufus appealed for aid to the common people of England, and became known as "the commons' king."

In these quarrels William lost his life, though just how he was killed has always remained a mystery. He was hunting in the forest and pressed on ahead of his companions. Then they found him shot dead by an arrow. Perhaps it was a chance bolt; perhaps some injured baron thus avenged himself. A gentleman named Walter Tyrrell was seen riding away from the forest and was accused of the crime. Knowing that the accusation even without proof would probably mean death, Tyrrell fled from England. But to the day of his death he always denied having shot the arrow.

Amid such bloody deeds as this lived and died the sons of the Conqueror. Their children took up the warfare after them, battling against one another for the family inheritance until at last all their claims, and that of the old Saxon kings as well, were united in King Henry II, a great-grandson of William I. Henry II came to the throne in 1154, and after crushing the last of the great barons, reigned for forty years. His power over his people was far greater than the Conqueror or his sons had ever wielded.













## THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF THE EMPEROR OF THE EAST

BY THE REV. J. G. COLEMAN, D.D.

LONDON: PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, 1794.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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## THOMAS À BECKET

(The Great Archbishop Rebukes the Knights Who Are About to Slay Him)

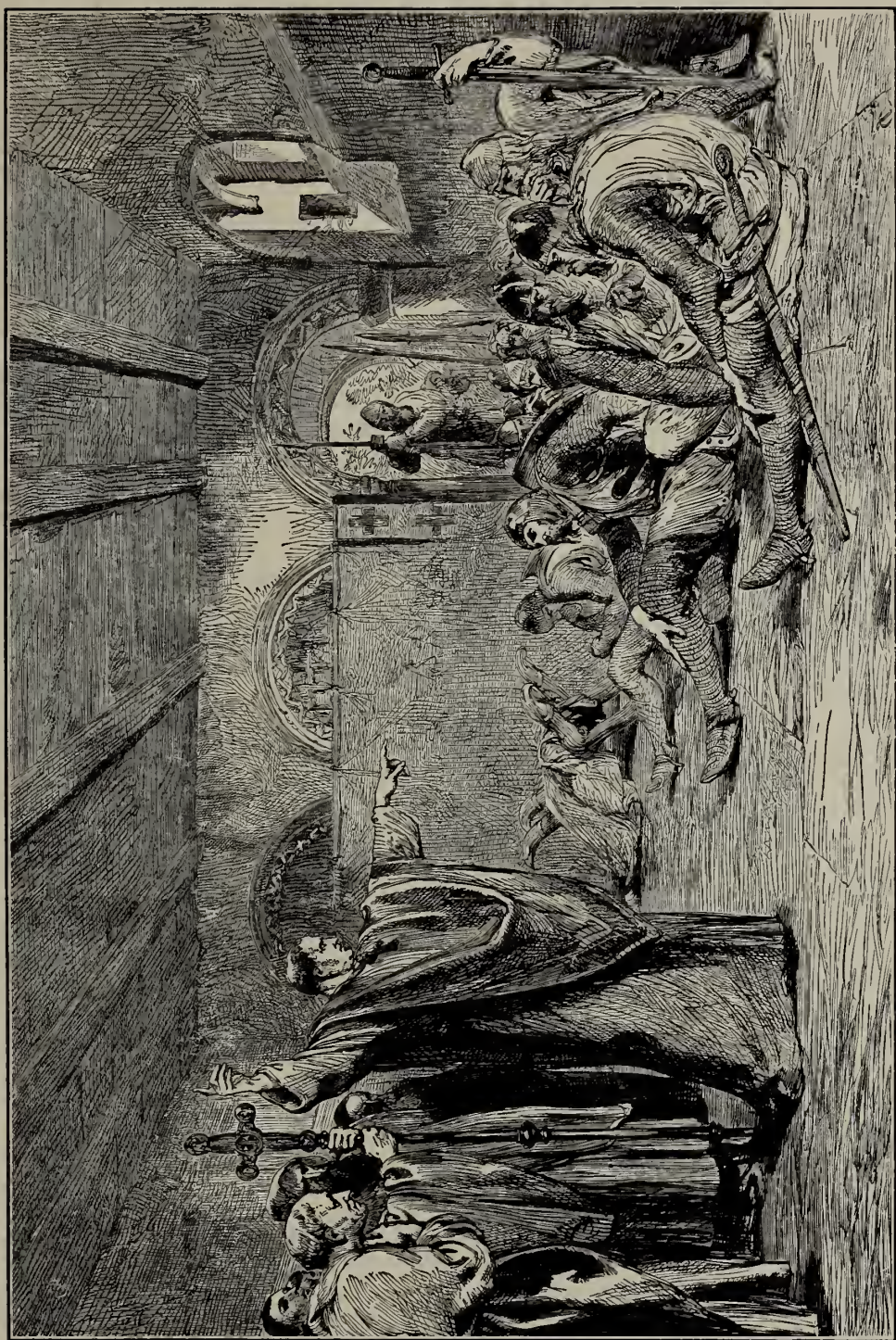
*From a drawing by Thomas Carey*

HENRY II's chief contest was not with his barons, but with the Church. In this strife he had to face the ablest and most noted Englishman of the twelfth century, Thomas À Becket. Becket had been at first a counsellor of the king, and his trusted friend. He rose to be Chancellor of the kingdom. Then Henry, wishing to control the Church as well as the barons, made Becket head of the English Church as Archbishop of Canterbury.

Becket was not a priest at all and only after long urgency did he accept his new rank. When he did, it was with the avowed intention of guarding the rights and interests of the Church. This soon brought him into conflict with his former friend the king. Under the lead of these two mighty men, the strife of Church and State soon rent the kingdom and drew the attention of all Europe. At length Henry one day cried out "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest!" Four of his knights at once rode off to Canterbury cathedral. Becket recognized their purpose. He had been a warrior before ever he was a churchman, and he went to the room where the knights were reposing as guests, and rebuked them so nobly that they wavered in their purpose. Later, however, they rallied their resolution, followed the Archbishop to the cathedral altar and there slew him. He was canonized by the Pope as a saint and martyr, and his shrine became the center of pilgrimages in England.















## CROWNING OF RICHARD THE LION HEARTED

(King Richard, Refusing to be Crowned by the Churchmen, Himself Places  
His Crown Upon His Head)

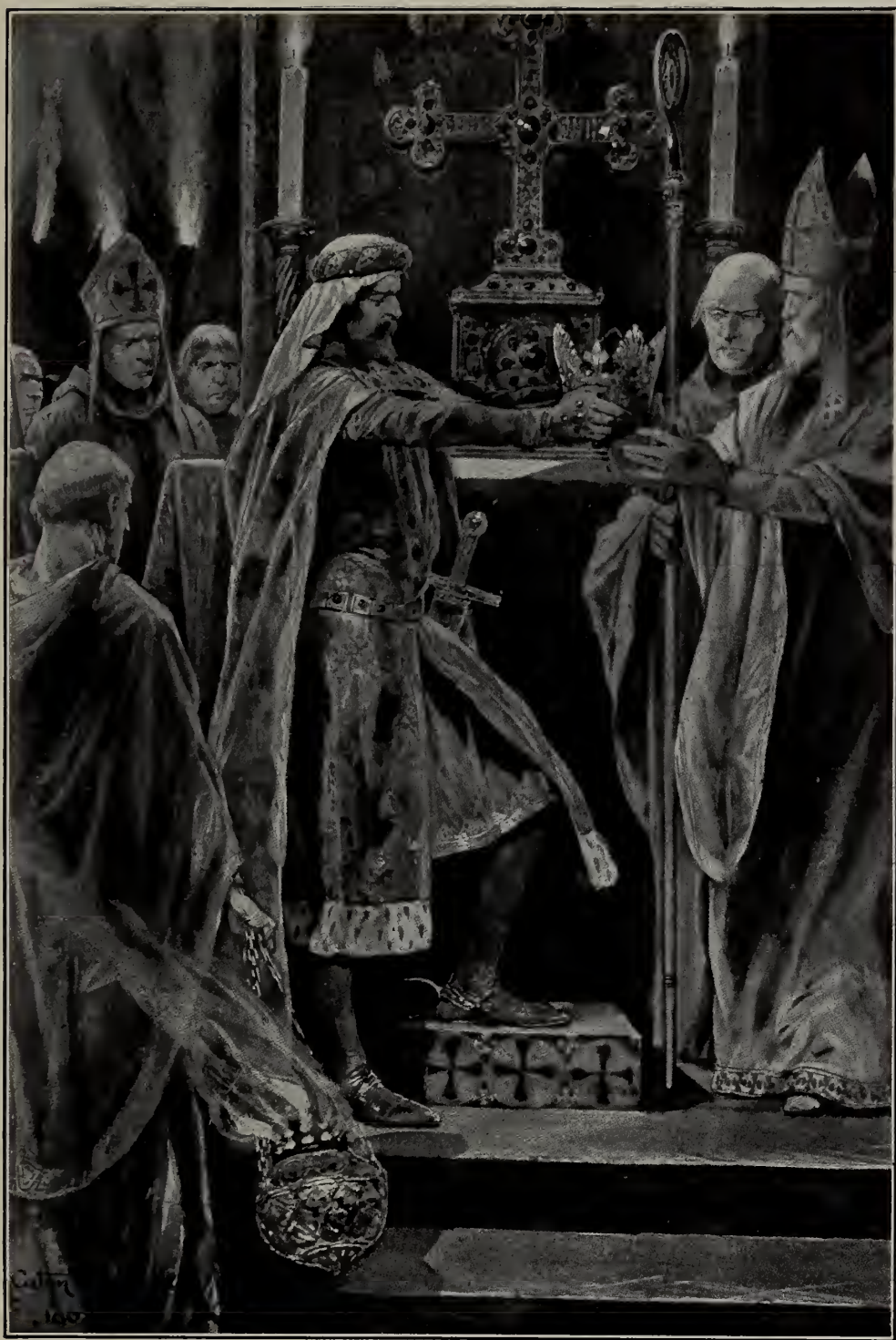
*From the historical series by R. Caton Woodville*

THE last years of Henry II's long reign were full of misery. The murder of Becket seemed indeed, as the Church declared, to bring a curse upon him. His sons rebelled against him. The eldest was killed in the strife. The second son, Richard, held Normandy in defiance of his father, and justified his rebellion on the plea of loyalty to the Church and horror at Becket's murder. All the wide domains of the Norman rulers seemed again plunging into anarchy. But when King Henry died, Richard proved himself a mighty ruler well able to curb the jarring forces of his distracted realm. When the new king came to his coronation, instead of bowing submissively to the Church whose champion he had been against his father, he took the crown from the waiting hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury. According to custom the churchmen should have crowned him, but Richard defiantly placed the golden circlet on his own head. The act was significant; the new king meant to hold his kingdom by his own strength, to rule the Church and not be ruled by it. Richard was the famous Cœur de Lion or Richard the Lion Hearted who has been made the hero of so many romances.

Really, however, he saw less of England than did any other English king. He had been born and brought up in the family's domains in southern France. He could not even speak English, except for a few broken phrases, and of all his nominal reign of eleven years he spent less than a year in England.















## RICHARD LEADS THE CRUSADERS

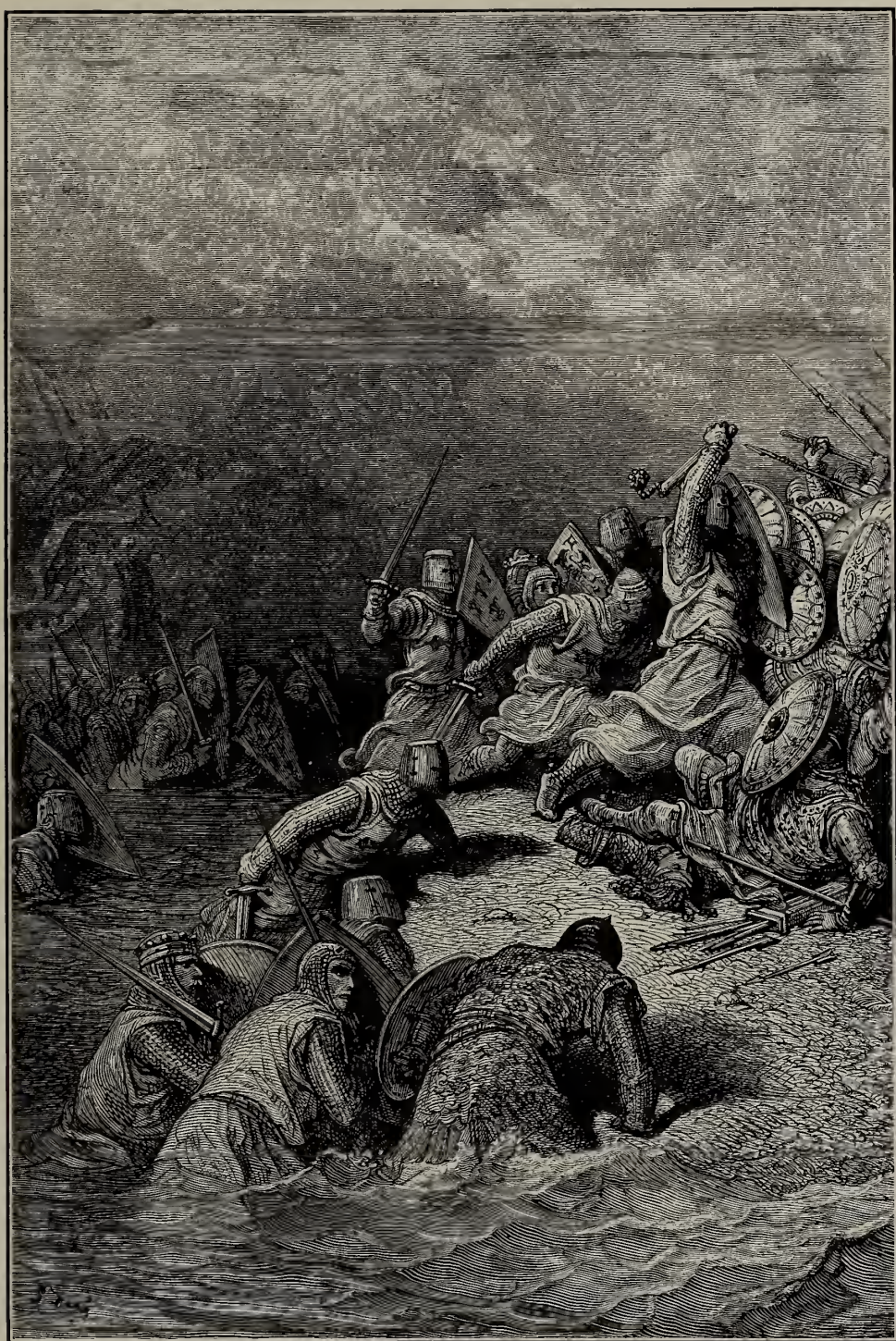
(Richard Leads the Van in the Capture of Acre and Terrifies the Saracens)

*From a drawing by the French master, Gustave Doré (1832-1883)*

THE chief thing which held this wandering Richard the Lion-hearted from his English kingdom, was his participation in the great Third Crusade. In the very year of his accession this crusade began. It was headed by the mighty German Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, who was followed by the Grand Duke of Austria, by the noted King Philip Augustus of France and by King Richard of England. Richard was the last to reach the Holy Land, where he found Barbarossa dead and the crusaders already fallen into confusion. He became the great hero of the struggle. A mighty and valiant fighter personally, he led the crusaders in every charge. At his first landing at Acre, he plunged ashore and attacked the Mahometans so furiously that they fled. Acre became the capital of the crusaders, and the name of Richard became such a terror to the Saracens that for generations afterward mothers hushed their babies with the warning "King Richard will get you."

Richard was made leader of the crusade. Since he was Duke of Normandy, King Philip of France was his feudal superior; but Philip yielded the command to this tremendous warrior. Then Philip shrewdly went home to France and strengthened his kingdom, while England was weakened by its monarch's absence and the constant drain of soldiers for his army in the East. In the end Richard's haughty spirit antagonized everybody, and he was left in the Holy Land with only his own followers. So the crusade proved a failure.















## THE RESCUE OF RICHARD

(The Musician Blondel by His Singing Discovers the Prison of the King)

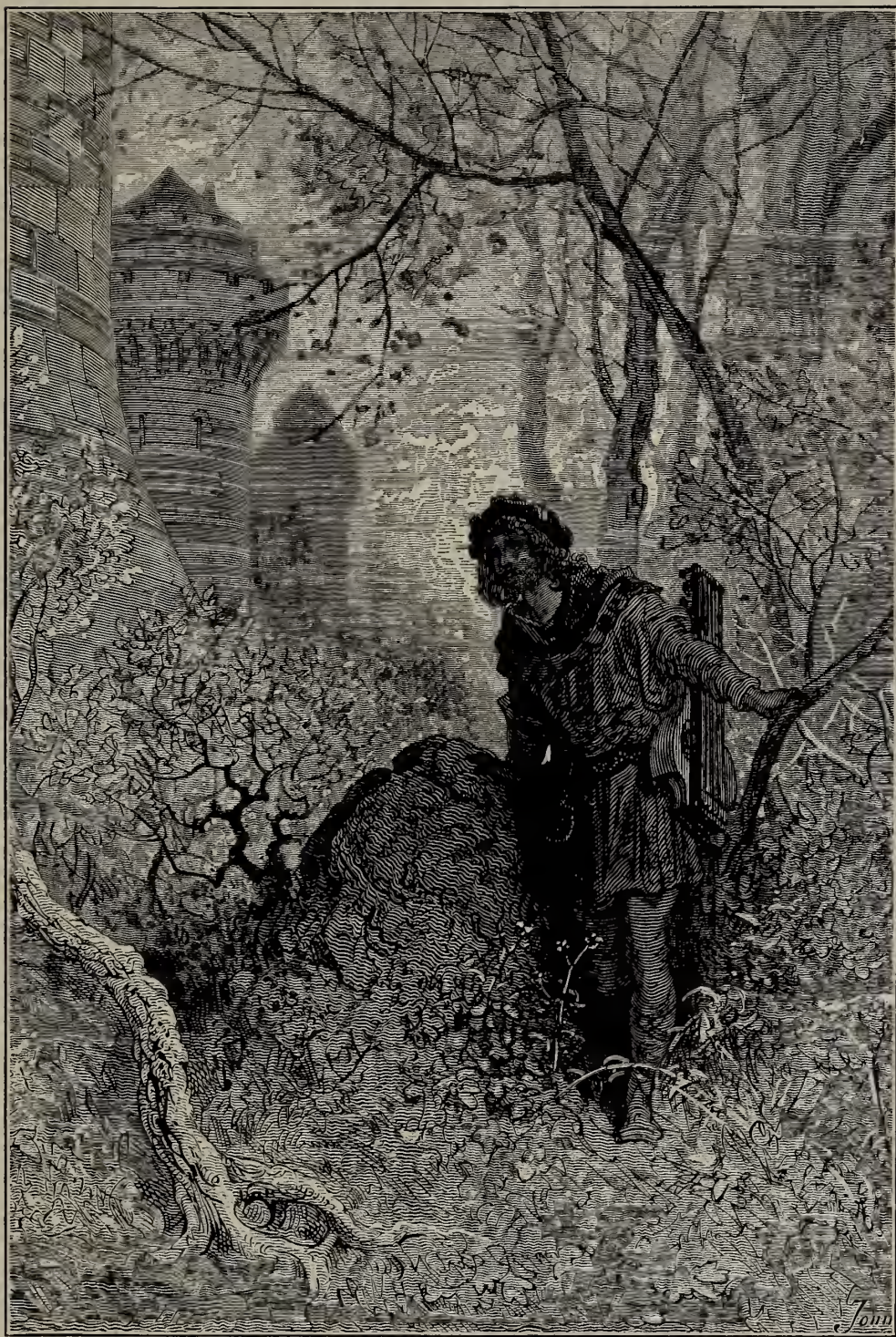
*From the series of drawings by Gustave Doré*

AS Richard journeyed home unwillingly from his disastrous crusade, he was seized by the Duke of Austria, with whom he had quarreled, and was cast into prison. This was the opportunity for his enemies. Philip of France began seizing Richard's French possessions, and Richard's younger brother, John, took control of England, though ruling in his missing brother's name. Philip and John did not know, or pretended not to know, where Richard was; and the unfortunate monarch might have remained imprisoned forever, had not his favorite musician Blondel set out traveling from fortress to fortress in central Europe. Outside each dungeon he sang Richard's favorite song, and at length he heard the response in his beloved monarch's voice.

Then the Church, for which Richard had been fighting, interfered, and he was set free, but only after paying an enormous ransom. "Defend yourself," King Philip sent word to semi-King John, "the devil is let loose." Indeed, both these plotters yielded what they had seized, and the masterful Richard won back all his own again. He at once began fighting for more. He was besieging the castle of a Norman baron who had defied him, when he was wounded to death by an arrow. So John got possession of the kingdom after all.















## KING JOHN EXCOMMUNICATED

(His Friends and Allies Shrink From Him as He Receives the Papal Bull)

*From a painting by the German artist, William Kaulbach (1805-1874)*

**K**ING JOHN was perhaps the most wicked of all the kings of England; yet his reign was the most fortunate for the land. His French friend, King Philip, who had not dared snatch the duchy of Normandy from Richard, took it away from John. The previous English kings had been more interested in Normandy than in England. Now that Normandy was lost, the later kings devoted themselves perforce to their island kingdom.

Next John quarreled with the Pope. He was excommunicated, and all church services were stopped throughout England. When this dire news came to John, his barons fell away from him in religious fear. The French King who had been seeking a renewal of his friendship, abandoned him again. Even his aged mother, who had been his chief friend and supporter, urged him to yield. John struggled against the Pope for two years, horribly punishing the priests who would not perform their offices; but he gave way at last and did everything as the Pope dictated, even taxing his people so heavily for the Church that they rebelled against both Pope and King. English kings had fought the Pope before, but now the English people were first roused to defiance of the "Romans," as they called the foreign churchmen. They forced John to promise not to tax them unduly, and to grant them the Great Charter, or Magna Carta, protecting their liberties.











# ARTICLE

OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

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**K**INDLY REMEMBER, that the Constitution of the United States is a compact between the people of the United States, and the people of the several States, for the purpose of forming a more perfect Union, establishing Justice, insuring domestic Tranquillity, securing the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, and securing to us the same Rights and Privileges which are enjoyed by the People of all other free and civilized Nations. It is a compact between the People of the United States, and the People of the several States, for the purpose of forming a more perfect Union, establishing Justice, insuring domestic Tranquillity, securing the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, and securing to us the same Rights and Privileges which are enjoyed by the People of all other free and civilized Nations. It is a compact between the People of the United States, and the People of the several States, for the purpose of forming a more perfect Union, establishing Justice, insuring domestic Tranquillity, securing the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, and securing to us the same Rights and Privileges which are enjoyed by the People of all other free and civilized Nations.

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## "SANCTUARY"

(The Regent Henry de Burgh Escapes Assassination)

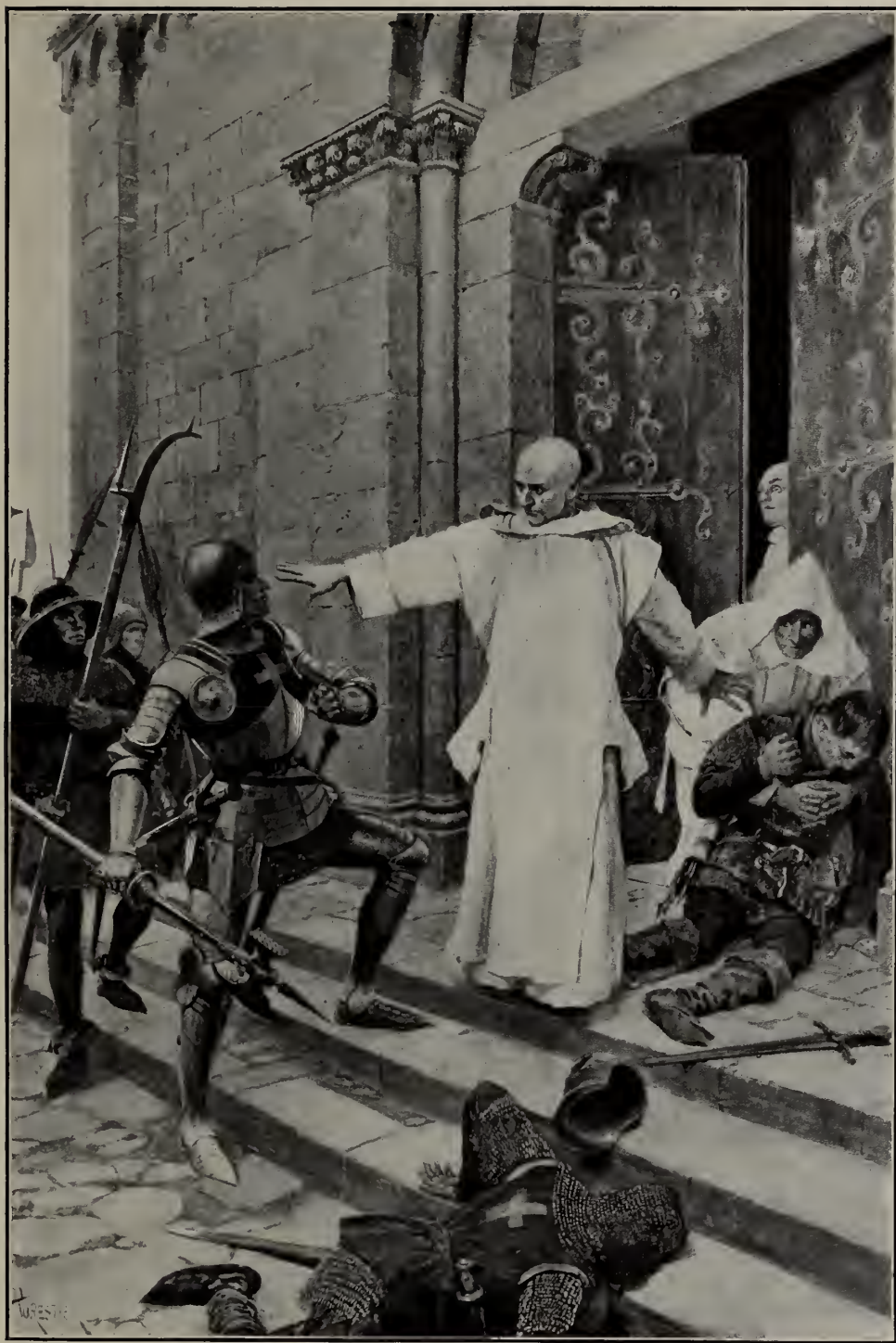
*From a painting by the English artist, A. Forestier*

**K**ING JOHN died shortly after he had unwillingly granted the Great Charter. He was succeeded by his son, Henry III, a child of twelve, whose minority proved a fortunate period for the country. The king's regent Hubert de Burgh was a nobleman both wise and strong. He confirmed the Great Charter and ruled by its principles. He kept the land at peace. Unfortunately in thus ruling, De Burgh incurred the enmity of his young sovereign, an idle lad who sighed only for the splendors of his position, who wanted wealth and command, but lacked all sense of duty or of honor. Henry plotted against De Burgh, and sent soldiers to slay him. The regent escaped by seeking "sanctuary," that is, he fled to a church, and in those days no man might enter a church to do violence. If he did he was excommunicated. So De Burgh's life was saved, but his power was broken.

King Henry, becoming his own master, ruled with such reckless extravagance that at length the whole country was in arms against him. The rebels were headed by Simon of Montfort who defeated the king's army at Lewes (1264), made Henry prisoner, and then summoned the first real parliament of England, that is, the first in which the common people were represented as well as the barons.

This parliament began a series of reforms, and thus from two evil kings, John and Henry, arose England's real liberty, her constitutional government.









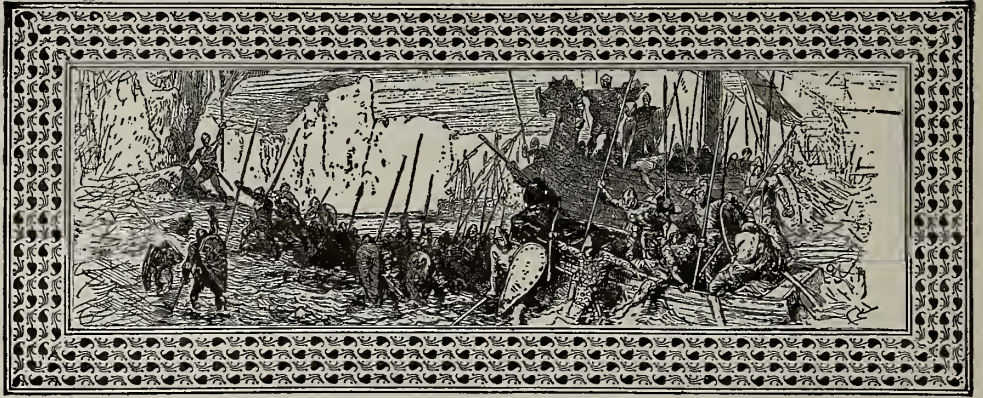
The earliest printed edition appeared in 1474. Another work of Bede was a Saxon translation of the Gospel of St. John.

The English displayed great skill as workers in metal, and in the illumination of manuscripts. Some of the latter that have come down to us are exquisite specimens of the perfection attained by the monks in the use of the pen, and the artistic arrangement of the gold, silver, and brilliant colors used in ornamenting books. A monk would spend months and years in patient work on one of these volumes, which were the pride and delight of those who owned them.

The women were wonderfully expert in weaving fine linen and embroidering tapestry, but the scarcity of volumes limited book education to the few. Hundreds of the foremost men and women in the kingdom were unable to write their names, and they knew literally nothing of the great world which extended beyond the narrow confines of their own land. You will bear in mind that not one of the thousands of modern conveniences was known to these people who lived much less than a thousand years ago.

The early Saxons built their houses, as a rule, along the ancient Roman roads, and two or three houses might form a "town," for each dwelling, surrounded as it was by a rampart of earth set with a dense hedge of sharp stakes, with a deep ditch beyond, was a "tun," which means a fence or other inclosure. The buildings were of wood with no chimneys, but with a hole in the roof through which the smoke reached the outer air. The dwellings of the lords were called "halls," because they were made up mostly of a large hall or room, where the occupants and guests ate, sat, and sometimes slept on their beds of straw or skins spread on the rough floor. The owners whose wealth permitted decorated their walls with brilliant tapestry, shields, and suits of armor hung upon wooden pegs. The master dined on a raised platform, while his followers ate at a table on the lower floor. The chambers for the master and his family were outside the hall, and sometimes there were upper chambers for guests. The Saxons loved to drink as much as they did to fight, and when the enormous meal was finished and the horns of ale were passing round, the minstrels would twang their harps and sing their songs of battle, of love, or of wild adventure.

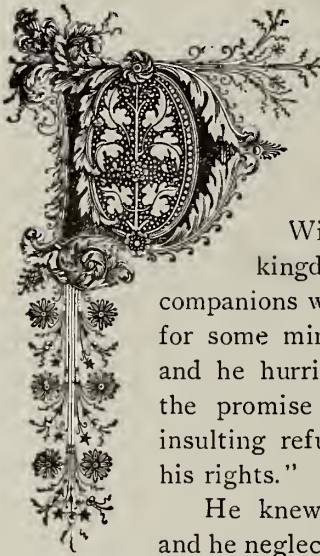




THE NORMANS ENTERING ENGLAND

## Chapter CIV

### THE NORMAN INVASION



DUKE WILLIAM of Normandy, overflowing with high spirits, was about to mount his horse to join his friends on a hunt, when a messenger rode up with the news of the death of King Edward in England, and the accession of Harold. Now William, you will remember, had been promised the kingdom. Instantly his face became a thundercloud. His companions were so frightened that they dared not speak to him for some minutes. But soon his tempestuous rage subsided, and he hurried off a demand to Harold that he should respect the promise made by the dead king. Harold's reply was an insulting refusal, and the indignant Duke resolved to "strike for his rights."

He knew what a stupendous task he had taken on his hands, and he neglected nothing in the way of preparation. He called his Norman barons round him, and promised large grants of land to all who would help him. Since most of the Normans were fond of fighting and adventure, and there was a promise of substantial rewards, they flocked in large numbers to his banner. He hired soldiers from other nations, and spent the spring and summer in getting everything in readiness for his great campaign. Not meaning to neglect anything, he sent to the Pope asking his favor, and it came back with a consecrated banner which was to be carried by the army. Just as the sun was creeping up in the horizon on September 27, 1066, Duke William's fleet and transports sailed out into the Channel, his own vessel in the lead,

with the sacred banner fluttering at the masthead. His archers and cavalry numbered more than 50,000.

Now another Harold, who was a Goliath of a warrior and King of the Norwegians, had landed in the north of England, and was joined by the brother of the English King, who had been exiled because of his brutal government of Northumberland. It was rather curious that the Norwegian and the English kings should bear the same name. The opposing armies crashed together at Stamford Bridge, on September 25, with the result that the Norwegians were routed, and their leaders, including the brother of the English King, slain.

The English Harold was in high feather over his victory, and held a great feast at York to celebrate it, but in the midst of the merrymaking a messenger galloped up with the astounding word that Duke William had landed at Pevensy. Harold did not waste any more time in celebrating, but, gathering his forces, hurried southward, and camped on the heights of Senlac. Meanwhile, William had landed and built a fort, from which he advanced to Hastings a few miles farther east. No enemy appearing, he began plundering the surrounding country, and was thus employed when Harold arrived with his army on the evening of October 13. Full of confidence, the Saxons spent the night in feasting and song, while the Normans engaged in prayer and confession.

The great battle of Hastings opened on the following morning and raged furiously. A huge Norman knight rode forward in advance of his comrades, singing and tossing his great sword high in the air, catching it as it fell. A Saxon rushed forward to meet him and was slain. Then the two armies joined in battle, the Normans attacking, the Saxons defending. Twice the invaders were beaten back. A rumor spread that Duke William was slain, and his men began to flee. Throwing aside his helmet that all might see his face, he galloped among the fugitives and checked them with his voice and lance, threatening death if they did not turn again to battle. Then he bade his archers shoot into the air, so that their descending arrows fell like rain upon the unprotected heads of the Englishmen. King Harold fell, pierced through the brain by an arrow and bleeding from countless wounds. Still the sturdy Saxons held their ground, and William resorted to another stratagem. He made his most trusted troops feign flight. The foe broke ranks in a furious pursuit; and the better trained Normans, turning unexpectedly upon the charging mob, scattered the English in confusion. Still, however, they struggled on, each little detached group fighting for itself, until night enabled the remnant to escape from the field of death. England had been conquered in one of the most desperate and bloody battles which history can recall.

The next day, Harold's old and tottering mother, with tears streaming down her withered cheeks, begged the body of her son, but the stern Duke



William would not permit it to have so much as a Christian burial. For a long time it was impossible to find the mangled corpse, and it was only with the help of Edith "of the swan's neck," a former favorite of the King, that it was picked out from the heaps of the slain. On the field of his great victory the Norman conqueror erected the Abbey of Battle, and tradition says he buried the body of his fallen foe under a pile of stones near the sea, whence it was removed by friends, and finally laid at rest at Waltham, near London, in the church (afterward Waltham Abbey) which Harold had built there.

With little delay William marched against London and burned the suburbs. The panic-stricken inhabitants, seeing no hope, threw open the gates without any defence. William repaid them by giving the city a charter which secured to it the same privileges that had been granted by Edward the Confessor. This interesting paper is still preserved among other documents in Guildhall, London. A striking fact connected with it is that William, unable to write his name, signed with his "mark." He was crowned on Christmas Day, 1066, in Westminster Abbey.

England having been so effectively conquered, William went back to Normandy, where by his appointment his Queen, Matilda, was at the head of affairs. Before leaving England, he placed it in charge of his half-brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, aided by a trusted friend William Fitz-Osborn, who had been made Earl of Hereford.

These two men were unfitted for the trust, and ruled so harshly that the people revolted and William found it necessary to return to England to quell the insurrection. It took several years and much desperate fighting to accomplish this, and the rebels, after being subdued, would not remain quiet. In 1069, the foreign barbarians swarmed into Northern England again and were aided by the English. William was never the most patient of men, and he was now so enraged that he swore to end the continual revolt by laying the country waste, and he kept the fearful oath. Villages, towns, dwellings, crops, cattle, everything beyond York and Durham, was destroyed, and the whole region so desolated that for nine years no one attempted to cultivate a foot of ground. More than a hundred thousand people perished of cold and starvation, during the winter that followed. It was an act of dreadful ferocity, and yet there seemed to be a grim necessity for it, since only thus could the country be saved from anarchy and barbarism.

William claimed that he had been the rightful King of England from the time of the death of his cousin, Edward the Confessor, and consequently all who had supported Harold were traitors whose lands he confiscated, thereby increasing his wealth beyond estimate, and making himself virtually the owner of the whole kingdom. His iron will brooked no restraint in any direction.

He built numerous strong castles in the different towns—the Tower of London being one of them. These were garrisoned with armed men to hold the surrounding people in subjection. The lands were divided mainly among his followers, so that at the close of his reign England had really only two classes of society—the Norman tenants or chief landholders, known as barons, and the English, who were so impoverished that nearly all of them held their lands under the barons. They were no longer free, and were known as *villeins*, who were bound to the soil and could be sold with it, but, unlike slaves, could not be sold apart from the land.

Within less than twenty years of his coronation, William ordered a survey and valuation to be made of all the land outside of London, with the exception of a few border counties on the north. These returns, which were complete to the minutest particular, were set down in an immense volume called the Domesday, or Domesday, Book.

In the summer following the preparation of this book (1086), William summoned all the nobles and chief landholders, with their vassals, to meet on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. There some 600,000 men solemnly swore to support him as king against even their own lords,—a sweeping and momentous proceeding, which made William supreme. Thus this great man completed his all-important work of blending and fusing together two peoples and civilizations. Still, as has been said, the English were not conquered by another race, but by a more vigorous branch of their own race.

At times there was not a drop of human pity in the breast of this remarkable King. When the people at Alençon hung hides on the city walls as an insult to his mother, who was the daughter of a tanner, he cut off the hands and tore out the eyes of the offenders, and had their bodies flung over the walls. He turned a beautiful tract of land thirty miles in extent into a hunting park, by driving out the people and burning their huts and churches, and he ordered that any man who hunted the royal game without permission should be blinded. Thus he showed the sea-wolf in his nature, though it was mingled at times with a strange gentleness which proved he was not wholly lacking in better qualities, and well earned for him the title of the "Lion of Justice." He did great good to England by infusing the vigor of his Norse nature into the decaying system, and by treating the poor and rich with the same rigid impartiality.

The Great Council, of which mention has been often made, seldom met, but there was need of a court to settle the disputes between the barons. So he organized the "King's Court," which was a smaller and more easily handled body. He sent judges through all parts of his kingdom to see that justice was done, to hear all complaints of the people, and make sure too that his wishes

were carried out. Whenever he paid a visit to Normandy, he left a prime minister called a "justiciar" to rule while he was away. It was because of this stern policy that many people came from other countries and settled in England. Among them were weavers and farmers from Flanders, who not only grew rich themselves, but added to the wealth of the country. Monks were drawn thither and led self-denying lives among the poor, who were greatly blessed by their ministrations. They built numerous abbeys, such as Fountains and Tintern, whose ruins still remain.

In 1087, William was so angered by a jest of the French King upon his bulky, awkward figure, that he set out to lay waste the borderland between France and Normandy. While riding through the ruins of Mantes, his horse stumbled and so injured him that he died some six weeks after. His oldest son, Robert, had rebelled against his father, and was not by the bedside of the dying king. To William, his second son, the Conqueror gave a letter advising that he be made King of England to the exclusion of his elder brother. The moment young William received this doubtful heritage, he set out for England to claim it, not stopping even to close the dying eyes of his father.

Henry, the third son, was given a fortune, and he also sped away to make sure of the inheritance. Thus the dying conqueror was left alone, and scarce was the breath out of his body when, legend tells us, the very servants deserted him, first plundering the apartment and even stripping from the death-bed its rich coverings, and tumbling to the floor the body of the mighty monarch.

Later, as his followers were preparing his burial at St. Stephen's Church, which he had built, a man stepped forward and forbade the interment, because he said William had taken the land on which the church stood from his father by violence, and he would not permit the lowering of the bier until payment was made of the debt. The body had to wait until the matter could be arranged. In the words of the old chronicle, "He who had been a powerful King, and the lord of so many territories, possessed not then of all his lands more than seven feet of earth," and even that did not become his until it was paid for.

Three sons, as we have seen, survived William the Conqueror, besides a daughter Adela who married Stephen, Count of Blois, a prominent French nobleman. Robert, the eldest son, secured Normandy. He had long been in revolt against his father, and at one time was disinherited. There is a story that father and son encountered, unknown to each other, upon the field of battle. Robert unhorsed his father, and would have slain him, but suddenly recognizing his defeated foe, knelt and asked for pardon. A partial reconciliation followed. It was soon broken again, but Robert was allowed to inherit Normandy.

William, the second son, called Rufus because of the color of his hair,



was accepted as King in England on his sudden appearance there. He had all his father's ability, but not his conscience. He was elected and crowned King, September 26, 1087, and reigned until 1100. Most of that period was spent in warring with the barons. He was a blasphemous wretch who revelled in all species of vice and gloried in his shame. His pledge to impose no unjust taxes was broken before he had been on the throne a year. His chief adviser was a Norman priest, Ralf, who was nicknamed *Flambard* or the *Torch*, and was afterward made Bishop of Durham. All the brain and energy of this man was employed in grinding out taxes and raising money for his monarch. It was said that the assassin standing on the scaffold, with the rope round his neck, could have it removed and himself set free, if he would assure the King of payment for the grace. Three years after William's accession, Lanfranc, the Archbishop of Canterbury, died, and, by the advice of Flambard, the King left the archbishopric vacant and used the revenues himself. He did the same thing with every office of the church, for which he expressed only scornful contempt.

Like the abject coward that he was, William had no sooner fallen grievously ill than he became terrified and hastened to undo to some extent the wrong he had done the priesthood. He sent for Anselm, the Abbot of Bec, deeply learned and holy, who was afterward canonized as a saint, and insisted upon his becoming archbishop. Anselm did not wish the honor, but his sense of duty impelled him to accept it. Then the King got well, and, as might have been expected, became the ferocious wretch he was before. The archbishop did not hesitate to reprove him as he deserved; there were several quarrels between them, and then Anselm withdrew and went to Rome.

It was during the reign of William that Christendom was filled with wrath by the news that the Saracens in the Holy Land treated with intolerable cruelty the multitudes of devout visitors, who were accustomed to make pilgrimages thither. The Pope proclaimed a Crusade, which set out in 1096 to wrest the Holy Sepulchre from the Mohammedans. Among those caught in the thrill of the general ardor was Robert of Normandy, who mortgaged his dominions for five years to his brother, in order to raise the expenses of his share in the Crusade. As you have learned elsewhere, he set out for Palestine, while Normandy dropped like ripe fruit into the hands of William Rufus.

The latter was passionately fond of hunting. On the 2d of August, 1100, he was engaged at his favorite pastime in New Forest, with a number of friends. Some time later, some of his attendants found him dying in agony, from the shaft of a crossbow that had deeply pierced his body. Walter Tyrell, one of the party, was suspected of launching the missile, and saved his life only by fleeing to France. He always denied having fired the bolt, though

suspicion attached to him all his life. A charcoal-burner carried the King's body to Winchester, where it was buried without any religious ceremony, for, even in those days of license and easy-going religion, it was considered a sacrilege to bestow any rites upon such a frightful wretch, who had died unrepentant in the midst of his sins. The most that can be said for the reign of William Rufus was, that it checked the aggressions of the barons and prevented his kingdom from falling into the anarchy that existed on the continent.

It was now the turn of Henry, third son of William the Conqueror, to ascend the throne, he being the first of the Norman kings who was born and educated in England. He had enough of his father's administrative genius to carry out and complete the governmental plans which the Conqueror had organized. He created a Supreme Court, composed of his secretaries and royal ministers with a chancellor at the head. Another body was formed, representing the royal vassals who had been accustomed to meet together three times a year. You have heard of the "Barons of the Exchequer," but I am sure do not suspect the origin of the name. The top of the table around which this board assembled, was marked like a checker-board, and it was from this that the title came. Still another body was composed of a class of lesser nobles, and served as a poise to the haughty old nobility.

Anselm was recalled as Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Henry, and he looked after the rights of the Church so closely that a good many people feared the Pope was acquiring too much power in England. Henry quarrelled with Anselm, but in the end had to give way to his uncompromising will, for, though the settlement was in the nature of a compromise, yet it was a great victory for any one to gain a concession from the King.

Rufus and Henry carried out the plan of their father for holding Wales in subjection. This consisted of building castles on the frontiers and placing them in charge of nobles, to whom were granted all the lands they could conquer from the Welsh. The sons, in addition to this method, planted a colony of Flemish emigrants in the district of Ross in Pembrokeshire, where they gained wealth by weaving cloth and tilling the ground, and defeated every effort of the Welsh princes to expel them.

A pathetic incident is connected with the reign of Henry. His queen, Matilda, died in 1118, leaving a daughter, Matilda, and an only son. The latter was a proud and vicious youth, whose only merit was the manner of his death. In 1120, when nineteen years old, the ship in which he was crossing the Channel was wrecked. He had put off from the sinking vessel, when the shrieks of his half-sister caused him to row back to her rescue. So many leaped into his boat that it went down, and he and all the noble company were drowned. It

is said that from the moment the news was carried to King Henry, he never smiled again.

No children were born to the King, although he married again, and he decided to settle the crown on his widowed daughter Matilda. The barons were displeased at the thought of being ruled by a woman, but had to consent and swore to sustain her in the succession. Then her father compelled her to marry Geoffrey, Count of Anjou, a youth only sixteen years old. This young man was called "the Handsome," and always wore in his helmet a sprig of the broom-plant of Anjou. Because of this fact, their son Henry II. is known in history as *Planta-genet*, the Latin name of the plant being *Planta genista*.

Henry died in 1135, it is said, probably with truth, from gormandizing. Two candidates for the throne immediately came forward. One was his daughter Matilda and the other his nephew Stephen. Despite the pledge of the barons to support Matilda, the feeling against the rule of a woman was so strong that Stephen was allowed to assume the crown. Four years later Matilda landed in England, determined to see that the wish of her father was carried out. The west of England rallied to her support, while the east stood by Stephen, the allegiance of the barons being divided. Stephen himself was one of the barons who had promised to sustain the queen. The King of the Scots, who was Matilda's uncle, came over the border with an army to help her, and, since everybody, including the barons, was thinking only of his own selfish ends, you can understand what woful times came to England. The barons had built themselves strong castles, in which they lived as robber chieftains, without the slightest regard for the commands of God or the commonest rights of humanity. If one of them suspected some person had hidden wealth, he would seize the unfortunate and plunge him into a dungeon, there to live in filth, with toads and snakes crawling over him, and, if that did not force him to tell where his wealth was hidden, the poor wretch was tortured to death. The barons hated one another and fought back and forth, and ravaged the land until the helpless people died of starvation and exposure. It was unsafe to make the shortest journey over the highway, and it grew so that if a person caught sight of a stranger in the distance, he would fly from him at the top of his speed. No church, building, man, woman, or child was safe anywhere, and no wonder that many bitterly exclaimed that God and His saints slept.

It was in 1139 that Queen Matilda landed in England, and the civil war began in all its fury. At the beginning of 1141, Stephen was taken prisoner at Lincoln, was loaded with chains and shut up in Bristol Castle. Then Matilda entered London in triumph, but was so elated and scornful because of her success that every one became disgusted, and she was driven out before she could be crowned. Some months later, Stephen was exchanged for the Earl



of Gloucester, and the horrible war raged again. Matilda was besieged in Oxford Castle, from which she escaped a few days before Christmas by an audacious stratagem. The ground was white with snow, and late at night she wrapped herself in a cloak of the same color, and, accompanied by three knights, slipped past all the posts of the enemy, hurried over the river on the ice, and safely reached Wallingford Castle. The civil war was finally brought to an end by the bishops in 1153, with the agreement that Stephen should keep the kingdom for his life, and then should be succeeded by Henry, the eldest son of Matilda. Stephen died in the autumn of 1154. He was the last of the Norman kings, their combined reigns having covered almost a century.

Under the Normans, Trial by Battle was introduced in addition to the Ordeal, which prevailed among the Saxons. The former was a duel in which each combatant appealed to Heaven to give him victory. Noblemen fought in full armor on horseback, while common people fought on foot with clubs. In each instance, the combat was in the presence of judges and might last from sunrise till stargleam. When the dispute was between priests or women, they had the privilege of being represented by champions. Strange as it may seem, trial by battle was allowed, when claimed in 1817, though the combat did not take place, and the custom itself was abolished in 1819.

The Norman conquest did not materially affect the divisions of society, though nearly all the Saxons were compelled to surrender their rank and estates to the Normans. A noble was a member of the National Council, or, in the case of an earl, he represented the king in the government of a county or earldom. He was not exempted from taxation, and his rank could descend to only one of his children. As you will recall, the aristocracy in France were noble by birth, their rank passed to all their children, and they were generally exempt from taxation.

No changes were made in the organization of the Church during the Norman period, but the principal offices in it were also handed over to the Normans. Henry I. and the Archbishop of Canterbury disputed because of the provision of a special court for the trial of ecclesiastics. This law was not finally abolished until the opening of the nineteenth century. Knighthood was common, and had the knights actually been what they were in theory, they would have formed a perfect body of soldiery, and the most accomplished of gentlemen. The men of course fought as had the Saxons, the armor being the same, though improvements were gradually made in it. The army consisted of cavalry or knights, nearly all of whom were Normans, and of Saxon foot soldiers, who greatly outnumbered the horsemen.

Of education there was little worthy of the name. Learning was despised by the nobility, who looked upon fighting as the highest aim of life. Since

William the Conqueror could not write his own name, you may be sure that few of the knights surpassed him in book-knowledge. Learning was confined to the clergy, and the meagre schools were connected with the monasteries and nunneries. Few books were written, the principal ones being histories. The old Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was continued in English, and the Chronicles of William of Malmesbury and Henry of Huntington were written in Latin. The best account of the Norman conquest is the Bayeux Tapestry, worked in colored worsted and done by a woman, supposed by some to have been Queen Matilda. The length of the canvas is two hundred and fourteen feet, the width about twenty inches, and it consists of seventy-two scenes or pictures from which a clear knowledge can be gained of the armor, dress, and weapons of the period.

The Normans were fond of fine attire. Under Henry I. the fashion prevailed among the nobility of wearing the hair very long and curling it, after the style of the women. The clergy indignantly denounced the silly custom, and it is said that one Easter Sunday the priest, after thundering against it, strode down the aisle, and with a pair of shears cropped all the curls in sight, including those of the King.

The curfew required the ringing of a bell at sunset in summer and at eight in winter, which was notice from the authorities to put out the lights and cover up the fires. It galled the English to submit to this Norman practice, but it was a necessity, since the towns were mere gatherings of wooden structures, that were continually liable to destruction by fire. The chief amusements were hunting and the catching of small birds by means of trained hawks (termed "hawking"). Tournaments, or mock combats between knights, were introduced, but did not become common until later. The churches invented theatrical plays, which were written and acted by monks, and generally represented scenes from Scripture history.



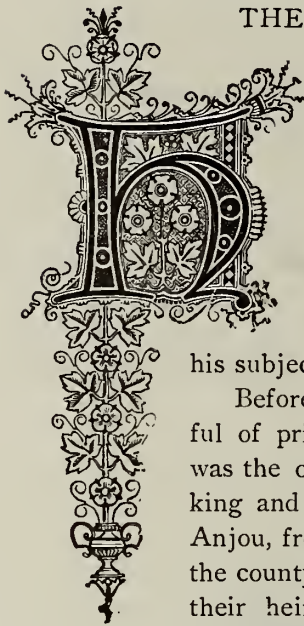
NORMAN KNIGHTS UNDER STEPHEN



KING JOHN AND ARTHUR

## Chapter CV

### THE EARLIER PLANTAGENETS



**H**ENRY II., he who was fond of wearing the sprig of broom-plant in his helmet, and who came to the English throne in 1154, was the first *Plantagenet*. He was twenty-one years old, strong, coarse, and determined to do right. When he took the reins of government in his big, horny hands, it was with the resolve to check the growing power of the clergy, to bring the country into order, and to make all his subjects obey him.

Before Henry was crowned, he was one of the most powerful of princes. Although a vassal of the King of France, he was the owner of so many fiefs that he was stronger than his king and all the other vassals. From his father he received Anjou, from his mother Normandy and Maine, and he gained the county of Poitou and the duchy of Aquitaine by marrying their heiress Eleanor, directly after her divorce from Louis VII. of France.

England contained more than a thousand castles, which, in the language of the early chronicle, were "nests of devils and dens of thieves." All these, with such few exceptions as Henry chose to make, were levelled to the ground. He told the great landowners they need no longer bind themselves to fight for him, but could pay him "scutage," or shield money, in lieu of military service. His cunning motive was to hire foreign soldiers with this tax, and thus cause



his countrymen to lose their skill with arms, and be less liable to rebel against him.

Although well educated for the times, and eager for the welfare of his people, Henry II. was depraved in his private life, and gave way to occasional outbursts of temper, during which his behavior was that of a lunatic.

He was very fond of Thomas Becket, who was his chancellor, and he secured the election of Becket as Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas was the son of a rich citizen of London, and had given his time to secular matters, but upon becoming Archbishop he went to the other extreme, resigned the Chancellorship, and led the most austere of lives. This displeased Henry, but before long a cause for more serious quarrel rose between them. It was the law that the bishops should hold courts of their own for the trial of ecclesiastics, but Henry insisted that they should be brought under the jurisdiction of the regular courts. Thomas Becket would not agree to this, maintaining that the special courts for the trial of the clergy should remain as instituted by William the Conqueror. The King had some new laws passed that were called the "Constitutions of Clarendon," because they were passed at that place by a council of the prelates and barons, in January, 1164. One of the laws was the special enactment demanded by the King, and another was a decree that all appeals in England should be made to the King and not to the Pope.

It was necessary for the Archbishop to sign these laws, but he resolutely refused to do so. Being summoned to the royal court he rode thither amid the applause of the people who loved him, and entered the hall with his cross held in his hands. Nothing could affect his resolution to oppose the will of the King. To all the appeals and persuasions of the bishops and nobles, who gathered around him, he calmly shook his head and replied that he must appeal to the Pope. Many grew impatient and angry, and as he passed out of the hall called after him "Traitor! traitor!"

As might be expected, the Pope sustained the Archbishop, who fled to France to escape the persecutions of King Henry. The quarrel went on for six years, and was intensified by the dispute over the coronation of the King's eldest son, whom he wished to make his viceroy in England. The Pope declared that no one except the Archbishop of Canterbury had the right to crown him, but Henry persuaded the Archbishop of York to perform the ceremony.

The King, however, dreaded the anger of the Pope, and, through the mediation of Louis VII. of France, he patched up his quarrel with Thomas, who returned to England, where he was joyfully welcomed. But there was no yielding on his part, and he announced that he had in his possession the excommunication of the Archbishop of York and his assistant bishops. His manner and actions were so defiant that Henry was seized with one of his wild bursts

of rage, and, rolling on the floor and fairly foaming at the mouth, he exclaimed : "Is there no one who will rid me of this vile priest?"

Four knights, who heard the words, took it as a command. Riding hastily to Canterbury, they with their followers entered the presence of Becket, and sat down in silence upon the floor before him. It was no light matter in those days to slay a churchman, and they wanted full excuse before they acted. Becket rebuked them for their silence; and they tried to draw from him words that should condemn him as a traitor. Failing in this, they withdrew in hesitation; but later returned, and with sword and battle-axe forced a way into the cathedral, where the Archbishop was celebrating what he knew would be his last church service.

The monks besought their chief to flee; some endeavored to defend him; but Becket would neither fight nor escape. The assassins tried to drag him from God's altar; but he resisted them, and they slew him where he stood. Then they fled in fear.

By his death Becket triumphed. Henry was horrified when told what had been done, and made oath to the Pope that he had nothing to do with the crime. He gained general belief in his innocence by kneeling upon the spot reddened by the blood of his former friend, and submitting to a beating like the vilest criminal. The laws which Becket had opposed, were not established. The common people of England regarded the Archbishop as a martyr, slain for his service to them and the Church; and his grave became a shrine to which pilgrimages were made from all the land.

The close of Henry's life was stormy. His neglected wife and his enemies stirred up his three older sons to rebellion against him. They were Henry, his heir, Richard, who had received the government of Aquitaine, and Geoffrey, who obtained Brittany through his marriage with Constance, the heiress. In 1173, they, in conjunction with a number of nobles of England and Normandy, including the kings of France and Scotland, formed a league against King Henry. He subdued the rebellion and showed leniency toward all except the King of the Scots, who was compelled to submit to a more humiliating vassalage than before, although Henry's successor allowed him to buy back his freedom, with only a shadowy lordship remaining over Scotland.

But soon the quarrelsome sons were wrangling again with one another, as well as with their father. Henry the younger died in 1183, begging his father's forgiveness; Geoffrey was pardoned, rebelled once more, and died in 1186. Richard was quiet for a time, but it was against his nature, and in 1188 he fled to the King of France for protection, and then seized upon his father's foreign dominions. Henry made only a weak resistance, and then bowed to his enemies. In answer to his request for a list of the barons who

had joined the last league against him, he read among the very first names that of his favorite and youngest son, John. He was so shocked and grieved that he fell into a fever and died in July, 1189.

The work done by Henry II. was the laying of the foundations of a just government in his country. It is said he levelled more than a thousand of the castles which had been illegally built during the reign of Stephen, and which had caused widespread woe and suffering in England. He abolished the debased coinage and substituted pieces of silver of full weight and value. When his barons refused to furnish men to fight for his continental possessions, he compromised by accepting the "scutage," which gave him the means of hiring mercenaries. This was afterward supplemented by the passage of a law reviving the national militia, and virtually made him independent of the barons. After much fighting in Ireland, Henry went thither in 1171, and his sovereignty was generally acknowledged. Four years later, Roderick, King of Connaught, became his liegeman, but Ireland remained for centuries the scene of disorder and rebellion, and was only nominally under English rule.

It will be remembered that the Norman method of settling disputes was by trial of battle. This was manifestly so unfair that Henry gave disputants the privilege of deciding their quarrels by reference to the decision of twelve knights of the neighborhood, who were familiar with the facts. This was the real origin of *trial by jury*, one of the most precious safeguards of modern justice. Another good law was that when the judges passed through a circuit, a grand jury of not less than sixteen was to report to them the criminals of the district. The judges sent the accused to the church to be examined by ordeal. If convicted, they were punished, but if acquitted they were ordered to leave the country within eight days. By this method the objectionable characters were effectually removed.

Regarding trial by jury, it may be added that during the reign of John, the son of Henry, in 1215, the Church abolished the ordeal throughout Christendom. The custom then came into use of choosing a petit jury, familiar with the facts, who decided upon the truth of the accusations laid before the grand jury. In case of disagreement by the petit jury, a decision of the majority was generally accepted. The objections to this method gradually gave rise to that of summoning witnesses, who testified before the petit jury, with a view of making their decision unanimous. We first hear mention of this change in 1350, during the reign of Edward III., from which may be dated the modern method of trial by jury, though Henry II. was the real founder of the system.

Since the eldest son of Henry had died, he was succeeded in 1189 by his second son Richard, known in history as Cœur de Lion, or the Lion-Hearted. Richard spent his early years in Southern France, the home of music and



poetry, and was a dreamer, whose heart's ambition was to attain military glory. Of magnificent figure, with the physique of a Hercules, and a courage that knew no fear, he was the beau ideal of romance, and the hero of some of the most marvellous adventures that have ever been related. Although King of England for ten years, he spent less than a year in that country. You have learned something of this remarkable knight of the olden time in our history of the Crusades, whither Richard went as one of the most valiant of the heroes who were determined to rescue the Holy Sepulchre from the Saracens.

Hardly had Richard taken the English crown in his strong hands and placed it upon his own head, when he hurried his preparations for a Crusade in conjunction with his friend Philip Augustus of France and the Emperor of Germany, their Crusade being third in point of time. Such expeditions demanded enormous sums of money, and Richard resorted to extreme means to obtain what he required. He compelled the Jews to make him loans, he sold earldoms, lands, and public offices, declaring that if he could find a purchaser he would sell London itself. It was at this time that the King of Scotland secured his freedom by the payment of ten thousand marks.

In the summer of 1190, Richard and the French King set out for the Holy Land. They had not gone far before they quarrelled, for Richard had a most disagreeable temper, and it was hard for any one to get on with him. It is said that in a wrangle with Leopold of Austria the English King delivered a kick which fairly lifted his astounded antagonist off the ground.

As you know, Richard failed in his attempt to capture Jerusalem. He forced a landing with his troops at Acre, and performed many heroic feats of individual valor; but the Sultan Saladin was greater than he. When these two were not fighting each other, they met like brothers, and held many talks and discussions over their respective civilizations. Each trusted fully the honor of the other. When King Richard fell desperately ill of a fever, which none of the English physicians could cure, legend says that Saladin asked the privilege of sending his own medical attendant to him. Some of the King's friends suspected treachery and objected, but Richard insisted, and the visitor was led into the English camp at night, and doctored his royal patient so successfully that Richard was soon himself again. Finally, almost broken-hearted over his failure to conquer the Mahometans, King Richard made a truce with Saladin, and set out to return to his own country.

When the King left England to go on his Crusade, his kingdom was ruled by his justiciars, the first of whom was the Chancellor William Longchamp, Bishop of Ely. He was honest and faithful to his sovereign, but, being a Frenchman, he hated the English just as intensely as they hated him. He was finally removed from office, and the King's brother John—a perfidious

wretch—was placed at the head of affairs. He began plotting with the King of France, and, as soon as Richard heard of it in Palestine, he started for home.

But the weeks and months passed and not a word came from the expected King. The only explanation was that he had met with death on the road. John was delighted, and lost no time in claiming the throne. Nevertheless, Richard was alive. Various stories have been told to account for his disappearance. His route compelled him to pass through Germany, and he tried to remain unknown, on account of his quarrel with Leopold, who would have been happy to punish him for the aggravating insult he had received at his hands, or rather his foot. The identity of Richard, however, was discovered, some say from the sight of a costly jewel on his finger, and others state that it was on account of the liberal supply of money displayed by his servant in buying food. Be that as it may, Richard was seized by Leopold and sold to the German Emperor Henry VI., who loaded him with irons and thrust him into a castle in the Tyrol. It was said that Blondel, a minstrel who had accompanied Richard to Palestine, set out on a wandering tour through Germany in search of his royal master, and at every castle he approached, sang one of the songs of which the King was fond. At the close of one of those weary days, when he was thus singing at the foot of a tower, he was thrilled by recognizing the voice of his master, who took up the next stanza and sang it through.

All this time, the unnatural brother John was conspiring with the French King, and urging the Emperor to keep Richard in prison, so that John might remain on the throne. But after more than a year's imprisonment, Richard was set free in February, 1194, on condition of paying a ransom so prodigious that it took one-fourth of the personal property of all the noblemen and most of the jewels and silver plate of the churches. It was an outrageous price to pay for a King who certainly had never been worth a fraction of the sum to England.

When Richard came to his own, the only punishment he inflicted on his brother, who had so basely betrayed him, was to take away his lands and castles. In March, 1199, Richard quarrelled with the Viscount of Limoges over a treasure that had been discovered on the estate of the latter and was claimed by both. While the viscount's castle was being besieged, one of the defenders launched an arrow so well aimed that it pierced the shoulder of the King, who fell, mortally wounded. The castle was soon taken, and Richard ordered all the garrison to be hanged, but commanded that the crossbowman who had given him his death-wound be brought before him. Looking reproachfully at the young man, the King demanded why he had shot him.

"You killed my father and two brothers," was the defiant reply; "I am

thankful that it was my privilege to kill you, and you may take what revenge you like."

The King was so struck by the words and daring of the youth, that he gave him his forgiveness and ordered him released. After Richard's death, however, the leader of the royal troops caused his assailant to be tortured to death.

You have learned of the great good that was brought to England and the Continent by the Crusades, themselves a series of the greatest follies in which a civilized people ever engaged. The Eastern civilization was far superior in many respects to the rough, uncultured civilization of the West. There were few Latin and no Greek scholars in England, whose people were compelled to admit that those whom they had looked upon as barbarians, were more learned and advanced in the arts and sciences than themselves. The Arabians had translated the classics into their own tongue, and from them England first learned of the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, as well as the elements of arithmetic, geometry, algebra, and astronomy. This infused new life into education, and helped the growth of the universities of Cambridge and Oxford. More important than all was the social and political revolution wrought by the Crusades. The people began to *think*, and to realize for the first time their wretched condition. King Richard had been obliged to grant charters to towns, and the nobles were compelled to confer similar privileges upon those under them. Immense estates were dissolved, and not only did the common people acquire new rights, but they acquired, at the same time, the spirit to defend and maintain those rights.

Still the civilization of England, as compared with that of later years, was crude and uncouth. An immense forest inclosed London, and the Tower, built by William the Conqueror, was filled with armed men to hold the inhabitants in subjection and to keep off enemies. At night, the streets were lighted by kettles of burning pitch which the watchmen carried on their rounds. When it became dark, the ringing of the curfew bell warned all the taverns to close. The greatest pleasures of the townspeople were bear-fights and bull-baiting. Nearly all were heavy drinkers, and quarrels and fighting were common. Often, in the morning, several dead bodies in the alleys or narrow streets told of the affrays of the night before.

Richard, having no children, was succeeded by his brother John, one of the greatest scoundrels that ever cursed England by his rule. When Henry II. died he had left John dependent on his brothers, and in jest gave him the nickname of "Lackland," which clung to him through life.

Now, the elder brother Geoffrey had left a son named Arthur, and the inhabitants of Anjou, which belonged to the English kings from the time of Henry II., wished to have this boy, instead of his uncle John, as their ruler.



The French King took the side of Arthur, who had lost his mother a short time before.

"You know your rights," said the King to the young prince; "do you not wish to become king?"

"I do," was the emphatic reply.

"Very well; two hundred knights are ready to march with you against your own provinces while I advance into Normandy."

Fired by the ambition of asserting his own rights, Arthur placed himself at the head of the little force, which was as eager as he, and advanced against the little town of Mirebeau in Poitou, where his grandmother was living. Arthur had been taught by his mother to hate this woman, and he believed that by making her prisoner he could gain better terms from his uncle, King John; but the old queen stoutly defended herself and held the castle long enough for her son to hurry to her aid. One of Arthur's noblemen delivered up the town on the night of July 31, 1202, to John, first exacting a promise that no harm should be done to the prince. The besiegers were made prisoners, while Arthur was first shut up in a neighboring castle, from which he was shortly taken to Rouen and thrown into a dungeon. Then, like many a proud ship that sails out upon the ocean, no certain tidings ever came back from him. It is generally believed that on the night of April 3, 1203, the King came to the prison, accompanied by his esquire, Peter De Maulac, and that they took the prince from his dungeon and rowed out in a small boat on the Seine. Arthur was in great fear and begged his uncle to spare his life, promising to do whatever he wished if he would only allow him to live. But the wretch made a signal to De Maulac, who refused to do the horrible deed, whereupon the King himself drove a dagger into the body of the poor youth and flung his body overboard. There is little room for doubt that Arthur was slain in this dreadful manner, for no more was ever heard of him.

Philip, King of France, charged John with the crime and ordered him, as Duke of Normandy, to appear at Paris for trial. John was too frightened to obey, whereupon he was proclaimed a traitor, and all his lands on the continent were declared forfeited. After losing a great deal of territory, he made an effort to regain it, but was crushingly defeated, and Philip seized Normandy and took away from John all his possessions north of the Loire. This seeming misfortune was a great benefit to England, for her kings were now compelled to live among their own subjects and to centre their interests and energies in them.

John came back from his defeat soured and revengeful. He insulted and ill-treated the clergy to such a degree that Pope Innocent III. interfered. The King still proving stubborn, the Pope laid England under an interdict. This

meant the entire suppression of all religious services. For two years the church bells were silent, and the churches draped in mourning. All sacraments were denied to the living and funeral prayers to the dead. The Pope next excommunicated John, who laughed with scorn and treated the priests with such brutality that they fled from the country. Then the Pope took his final step by deposing the King and ordering Philip of France to seize the throne.

— This brought John to his senses, for he saw himself abandoned on every hand. He kneeled at the foot of the Pope's representative, whom he had refused to allow to enter England, and promised to pay a yearly tax of more than \$60,000 for permission to keep the English crown upon his head. This satisfied the Pope, who removed the interdict and excommunication, and peace was restored.

But though the Pope had vanquished the wretch, John was too evil by nature to restrain his evil courses. He taxed the miserable people to the point of starvation; he flung those whom he disliked into prison, and refused to bring them to trial; he robbed right and left, and made himself abominated by all, both noble and peasant. In short, he trampled upon the worm until it turned.

One day in the summer of 1213, there was a secret meeting in London of the leading men, including Stephen Langton, the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, and a prime mover in the object that had brought them together. They were earnest in their purpose and agreed to form a new code of laws, taken from the ancient charter given by Henry I., and to compel the King to sign it. A few days later, the King was at Mass in the Tower of London, when he was scared almost out of his senses by hearing the steady tramp, tramp of men and the angry shouts of the people themselves. In a short time the multitude filed through the streets into the open space in front of the Tower. The trembling King went out and timidly asked what it all meant. He was told that the barons had risen against him and the citizens were welcoming them. The terrified John ran out of the back of the Tower to the river-side, and was rowed across that he might escape the vengeance he so well merited.

As a result of this, a famous historical event took place on the 15th of June, 1215, at the meadow of Runnymede, on the banks of the Thames. It was a bright sunshiny day, and the air was laden with the fragrance of flowers and cooled by the soft breezes that rippled the river and dipped the heads of the rushes on the banks. On the shore stood a couple of tents, from one of which banners were flying, while sounds of merriment floated from within, where the King made sorry attempts at jesting, while awaiting the action of the stern men in the other tent, at whose head was Stephen Langton.

The parchment, still preserved in the British Museum, which was laid before the King and which he did not dare refuse to sign, was the MAGNA CHARTA, or Great Charter of England. It was the first agreement ever entered into by an English king and all his people. It contained sixty-three articles, most of which have become obsolete with time, but three imperishable provisions remain: 1. No free man shall be imprisoned or proceeded against except by his peers or equals, or the law of the land; 2. Justice shall not be sold, denied nor delayed; 3. All dues from the people to the king, unless otherwise clearly specified, shall be laid only with the consent of the National Council. Although the last provision was dropped during the next reign, the principle was plainly proclaimed.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the adoption of the Magna Charta. It made the English people a united body, and cemented and protected the interests of all classes. The estimation in which the charter was held is shown by the fact that during the following two centuries it was confirmed thirty-seven times.

Now, do not give King John any credit for granting the Magna Charta to his subjects, for, as I have shown, he could not help himself, and no sooner had the assembly broken up, than he raged like a madman and swore that he would find means to break every one of the laws which with a hypocritical smile he had signed. He begged the aid of the Pope, who in response declared the Charter of no effect, promising that if the barons would submit they should not suffer; but they could not be cajoled, and Langton would not pronounce excommunication against them, for which refusal he was suspended by the Pope. The infuriated John summoned his mercenaries from the Continent, and began ravaging England, invading Scotland to punish the northern barons and their leader, the King of the Scots. It was his custom each morning to burn the house in which he had slept during the night. Finally the barons became so desperate that they offered the crown to Louis, eldest son of the King of France. Louis brought over a French army, but began giving away so much land to his own countrymen that the barons became alarmed, and a number joined John. In the midst of the fighting, John died, October 28, 1216, from vexation, and some said from stuffing himself with peaches and ale, while others whispered that he was poisoned by a monk. According to the old but truthful record, he died, "a knight without truth, a king without justice, a Christian without faith."

His eldest son Henry was crowned at the age of nine and became King Henry III. During the lad's boyhood, his guardians ruled in his name, and all went fairly well. The greatest English leader of the day was Hubert De Burgh. He drove the French Prince Louis from the country, and defeated the



noted French sailor, Eustace the Monk, thus making England for a time supreme upon the northern seas. When, however, King Henry came of age, he showed himself a degenerate son of his degenerate father. He was extravagant, fond of display, and without any ability whatever. Turning against his able minister, he ordered his arrest. Warned just in time, De Burgh sought sanctuary in a church, whither his enemies followed him. He was dragged from the altar, but such was the opposition raised by this violation of the house of God, that the king returned his prisoner to another church. Then a guard was set around the building, until starvation forced De Burgh to come out and surrender himself.

Once more, however, he escaped, and so great was his reputation among the people that the King was compelled to abandon the contemptible vengeance that had been planned against the minister. De Burgh was allowed to live in retirement, but in safety.

During Henry's minority, his guardians had twice renewed the Great Charter. By the first renewal, the article reserving the power of taxation to the National Council was omitted, and one added that no man should forfeit life or limb for hunting in the royal forests. In return, the council granted the King a fifteenth of their personal property. The idiotic extravagance of the ruler and his causeless and unsuccessful wars crushed the country under a colossal debt which in these times would be equivalent to \$65,000,000. To meet the clamors of his numberless creditors, Henry mortgaged the right of extorting money from the Jews to his brother Richard, and violated the Charter over and over again.

When twenty-nine, Henry married Eleanor, daughter of Count Raymond of Provence, a French land bordering on the Mediterranean Sea. Eleanor was brilliant and beautiful, but quickly made herself detested by the subjects of her husband. When she came to England, she brought her four uncles and a large number of relatives and friends, upon whom Henry showered favors, giving them money and lands, and castles to live in, and appointing a number to bishoprics and offices of high honor.

You remember that King John promised to pay a yearly rental to the Pope, who naturally looked upon Henry III. as his vassal. The Pope sent a legate to England who returned to Rome so laden with treasure, that the Great Council of England met to discuss what could be done to avert the impending ruin of the country. The barons were present, and the lesser knights were summoned, but though they conferred earnestly, they were not able to do anything. Finally, the man for the hour appeared in the person of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. He was a Frenchman, who gained his title from his mother, and had married the sister of the King's wife. Because Simon was a foreigner,

the people did not trust him at first, but he soon convinced them that he was as much an Englishman at heart as they, and was ready to risk anything to help them. Even the King recognized the stern stuff of which his brother-in-law was made. One day, when the royal barge was caught in a thunder-storm on the Thames, the earl, seeing His Majesty's terror, tried to soothe him with assurance that the tempest would soon pass. "Ah," replied the King, "I fear *you* more than all the thunder and lightning in the world."

When the people came to recognize Simon de Montfort's nobility of character, they gave him the name of "Righteous Simon." He held his peace as long as he could, but the mountains of debt continued to pile up, and Henry kept plunging into the most foolish of wars and taxed the people beyond their ability to bear. There came a terrible year, when the harvest failed, and, in the famine that followed, thousands of poor peasants died in their miserable huts. It was in this fearful crisis that Henry demanded that one-third of the revenue of the country should be sent to the Pope.

Simon the Righteous could stand it no longer. When the Great Council met at Oxford, he was at the head of the armed barons who crowded into the assembly. They resolved that a number of councillors should be appointed whose permission should be necessary before the king could act. To this the King perforce agreed, and the resolutions passed at this meeting were known as the "Provisions of Oxford." The good government, which promised so well, did not, however, last long, for the members of the council quarrelled among themselves, and Henry was soon at war again with the barons. His eldest son, Prince Edward, who had been at times on his father's side, and at other times against him, thought perhaps it would be best to support his parent, and he now joined the royal troops. The two forces met in Sussex, and in the battle of Lewes, in May, 1264, Henry was taken prisoner by the barons, and Prince Edward gave himself up as a captive. For most of the year following, England was ruled by Simon de Montfort and his councillors.

The most famous act of this patriot was the change he effected in the Great Council of the kingdom. Hitherto that body had been composed mostly of the barons and bishops, but Simon thought it fair that the lesser tenants, or knights of the shire, should have a voice in making the laws of their country. He, therefore arranged that two knights out of each shire should be summoned by writ in the king's name to the national assembly. He provided further that each town and borough should send two citizens or burgesses to the Great Council, as the direct representatives of the wishes of the people. This was the beginning of the House of Commons, and the Great Council was, for the first time, called the *Parliament*, while Simon de Montfort was at the head of affairs.

Unfortunately the sons of Simon were wholly unlike their father, who was inspired in everything by unselfish motives. They were overbearing and contemptuous in their treatment of others, and, after a while, the barons fell to quarrelling among themselves. Prince Edward effected his escape and began gathering an army. The disaffected barons rallied to him, and the supporters of Simon rapidly fell away, most of them being Welshmen led by Prince Llewellyn. Simon, the younger, allowed himself to be surprised by Edward and his army at Kenilworth, after which Edward marched against the elder Simon at Evesham, in August, 1265. By displaying in front the banners captured at Kenilworth, he deceived Simon and his followers into the belief that friends were approaching. As soon as the royalist ensigns were shown, Simon exclaimed: "May God have mercy on our souls, for the King has our bodies!" The little company made a valiant fight, but were overpowered, Simon being among the slain. The defeat gave back authority to Henry, who reigned for fifty-six years, his death occurring on the 16th of November, 1272.



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